

THEATRE NORTHWEST

'Little Shop of Horrors' blooms this weekend

By Destinee Biesemeyer
Missourian Reporter

After several weeks of rehearsal, makeup for everyone, costume fittings and set design and construction, Theatre Northwest is ready to present the comedic terror, "Little Shop of Horrors."

"'Little Shop of Horrors' is produced as a joint project of the theater program of Northwest and the department of music. Those departments combine once every other year to do a jointly-produced musical. Initial discussion regarding what specific musical began almost two years ago," Director Joe Kreizinger said.

When selecting production pieces, there are multiple factors to consider.

"There are several criteria considered, including cast size, orchestral requirements, and,

importantly, audience interest. In this case, audience interest was a large factor," Kreizinger said.

Brett Borden is the leading character, Seymour Krelborn, in "Little Shop of Horrors."

"'Little Shop of Horrors' is about a guy, Seymour, who dreams of a new life with his co-worker," Borden said. "Then he discovers a plant that feeds on blood and promises to make his life change for the better.

"As the plant gets bigger, he eventually finds that he has to kill people in order for these wonderful things to keep happening," Borden said.

Borden is a speech/theater education major who has performed in four Theatre Northwest Productions.

"My favorite part of theater is

See LITTLE SHOP on A6



THE MONSTER PLANT, the Audrey 2, singing with his newly devoured victims during Tuesday's dress rehearsal of "Little Shop of Horrors."

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Numbness to violent acts concerning

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

After incidents like the one at Northern Illinois University, some Northwest students and staff fear students are growing numb to violence on college campuses.

Student Affairs Vice President Jackie Elliot talked to some students after the NIU shooting.

"There wasn't anybody that showed acute distress, but we did send out a message, you know, letting students know that our counseling services are available. We want to make sure students know that we understand that everybody deals with it differently," Elliot said.

Elliot is concerned students are becoming complacent when it comes to school violence because this generation has seen a lot of it.

"When I went to school there was no such thing (as school violence)," Elliot said.

School violence doesn't have the same shock value it used to, she said.

See STUDENTS on A6

AREA ELECTIONS

Espey runs for 5th term

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

After serving nearly 16 years as Nodaway County Sheriff, Ben Espey, 54, has seen a lot of cases and a lot of change.

Experience, Espey said, is a valuable commodity that cannot be offset and will serve as a major component of his campaign when the incumbent runs for his fifth term this November.

A lifelong Nodaway County resident with more than 3,000 hours of law enforcement training, Espey began his career as a deputy in Nodaway County in 1985. Seven years later, Espey won the county's race for sheriff. In serving in that post since 1993, many changes have occurred under Espey's watch.

"I don't want people to think that if you start 16 years ago, you're doing the same thing you did 16 years ago. Everything's totally different. It's completely computerized," Espey said and added that as technology moved forward, so has the Nodaway County Sheriff's Department.

See ESPEY on A6



Ben Espey
Nodaway County Sheriff

STUDENT FEATURE

Leap Year babies have their day

By Brian Johnson
Assistant Features Editor

Christmas comes but once a year, but Leap Day comes but once every four years. While this may not be a big deal to most people, there are a select few out there who celebrate their birthday on this unique day.

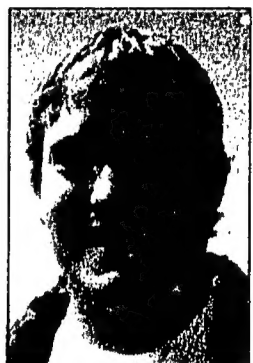
Leap Day comes from the concept of the Leap Year, where an extra day is added at the end of February every four years. This idea is practiced in order for the calendar year to keep up with the astronomical year.

People who celebrate their birthday on Leap Day technically only have an actual birthday once every four years. Many people may remember having a kid in class that was technically two or three because of being born on Leap Day. Northwest sophomore Danny Thompson was one of these kids.

"Every once in a while, I tend to act stupid about it," Thompson said with a smile. He then laughed and said "I always joke that I should be ordered off the kids menu."

Growing up, Thompson said that kids would give him a hard time for having a Leap Day birthday. Despite this, Thompson claims that he never took it too seriously. He would often have a very humorous comeback for them.

See LEAP on A5



Danny Thompson
sophomore



Megan Switzer
sophomore

MAIN



A VEHICLE TAKES a muddy bath as it runs over potholes along Main Street. The city is working on repair plans on Main Street, between First and Halsey streets, but no construction or cost planning is finalized.

City ponders options for Main Street

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

Ask any Maryville resident and they may comment that Main Street appears more like an off-road course rather than the vital lifeline running through the heart of the city's commercial district.

"I think it's kind of sad to see considering that's the first thing people see when they come into our town," Maryville resident Miranda Weigel said. "You want your town to look good and when you're going down Main Street it's worse than gravel roads are."

Large amounts of snowfall, coupled with fluctuating Midwest temperatures have wreaked havoc on Maryville roads, leaving many city streets riddled with potholes.

"It's the worst it's been in my 19 years of living," Northwest Freshman Rachel Job said. "I think it's kind of crappy that Maryville hasn't done anything about it yet. It's been this way for over a couple months."

With temporary patches falling apart, city officials have begun to discuss long-term repairs for Main Street, Maryville Public Works Director Greg Decker said, but added that nothing is set in stone at this point.

"Right now what we're doing is putting cost estimates together with some different options," Decker said.

Those options include either a complete removal and concrete rebuild or grinding the top two inches of Main Street off and placing an asphalt overlay on top of the remaining road. Both options would include Main Street from the intersections between First Street and Halsey Street. Of the two options, the concrete rebuild would be the more expensive of the two options.

"That could run as much as a half a million dollars. If they would do a two-inch grind and overlay, they're probably looking at half of that," Decker said.

The cost is one consideration for the city to review in deciding the best course of action, but with standing water, most notably in front of the First Presbyterian Church, the city has a bigger problem to address first,



photo by seih cook | missourian photographer

Maryville City Manager Matt LeCerc said.

"I think the cost difference is significant, but when you get down to it what you really need to address is the drainage there," LeCerc said. "If we don't fix the drainage we're going to be in the same position we are right now in three years. So it starts with how can we fix the drainage, because if you don't get rid of the water from the location, the freezing and thawing will eat up anything you just worked on."

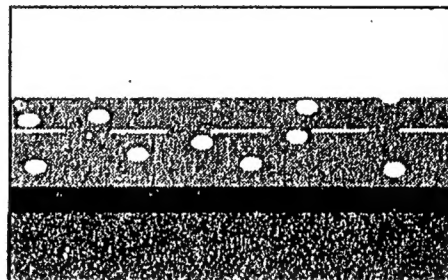
One of the benefits of using a concrete surface is that it doesn't crack like an asphalt road would. That's because asphalt is a mixture of gravel, sand and oil, and will have crevices and cracks in it, Decker said. From there, rain and melting snow will damage the asphalt surface.

"Running water will penetrate the asphalt, get down into it maybe an inch to two inches and then it'll freeze," Decker said. "One day we'll have 50 degrees, it'll melt. The next night it'll be 9 degrees like we had in the last few weeks. That freezes and expands. When the water expands inside the asphalt, it just busts it."

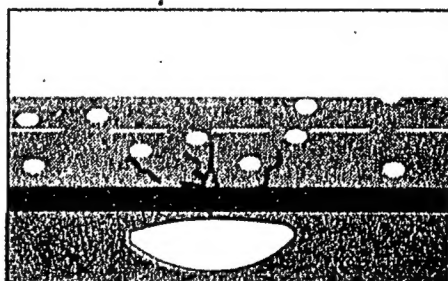
"Then when the car hits it, it's loose, vibrates it loose and the asphalt keeps coming out and as the pothole forms it starts holding water and then it just grows."

See MAIN on A6

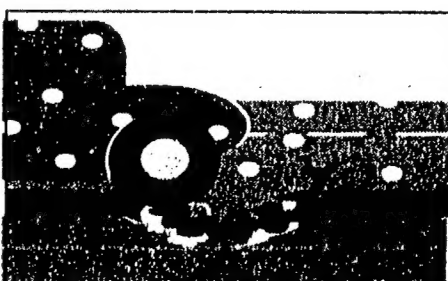
How potholes form:



Rain and melting snow penetrate the asphalt and collects in small puddles under the roadway.



The water collecting under the asphalt then freezes, causing the hole to expand. The expansion makes roadways fragile and easily breakable.



Vehicles pass over the small roadway cracks, which loosen the asphalt, creating a larger hole. The next rain or snow does the same thing, this time in a much bigger capacity, causing giant potholes, like the ones seen in Maryville.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Group accepting entries until April 1

The Medium Weight Forks are now accepting fiction, non-fiction, poetry, art and photography submissions until Tuesday, April 1.

For more information, e-mail nw@nwmissourianews.com.

Quartet performs with choir Tuesday

Three Men and a Melody will perform with the University Tower Choir in Concert at 8 p.m., Tuesday, in the Performing Arts Center. The barbershop quartet was founded in 1991.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Tickets for dinner currently on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the annual International Student Organization Dinner.

The dinner is at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 8, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Tickets cost \$12 for students, faculty, staff and the public. Children under 10 cost \$10.

Tickets are available through March 6 at the Student Services Center in the Administration Building. Admission at the door is \$25.

Colden Pond Plunge scheduled tomorrow

The four "winners" of the Colden Pond Plunge will jump in at 1 p.m. Friday.

Logan Galloway, Steve Wilson, Rod Barr and Wesley Miller were chosen after several days of donations were collected. They were chosen after containers with their names on them collected the most money out all the nominees for the event.

The event is sponsored by 'til Dawn, and they raised \$700 for their fund-raising efforts.

Designer to exhibit work on campus

Ann Willoughby, a graphic designer from Kansas City, will display her work for the Visiting Artist Series.

Willoughby's work will be on display in the Olive DeLuca Fine Arts Building, first-floor gallery from Monday through Friday, March 21.

She will show slides of her work during a lecture and reception at 7 p.m., Monday, in Olive DeLuca room 2004.

Body image booth offers information

A booth will be set up on the J.W. Jones Student Union second floor from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and tomorrow for Body Image Awareness Week.

For more information, contact the Wellness Center at 562-1348.

MISSOURI STATE ARBORETUM

Inclement weather affects campuswide cleanup efforts

By Elizabeth Sexton
Missourian Reporter

Those who risked life and limb restoring safety on campus during winter break continue to face obstacles as more bad weather hinders cleanup efforts.

"It was so dangerous," horticulturist Adam Stone said. "We saw students out and about taking pictures underneath trees that I wouldn't go by even if I was paid to."

Stone recalled encountering a "demilitarized zone" during and after the ice storm on Dec. 10.

"It was dead quiet with very little movement around. You heard destruction in the background of just trees collapsing," Stone said.

Stone and his crew were in shock as Missouri's State Arboretum of more than 1,300 trees and 125 species, was fractured by an estimated \$2.5 million of damage.

"Oh, I cried," Stone said. "I saw years of work gone in a 24-hour period."

For Landscape Services Director Leslee Johnson, feelings of admiration overshadow initial concerns of watching their "life's work falling down around them."

Despite the stress of working

long days in areas that were declared unsafe for the public and retreating to the personal strains associated with the storm in homes without heat and electricity, Johnson said the group made calm and wise choices.

"Folks look for heroic actions in situations like this," Johnson said. "We had no individual heroes, but a whole team you could credit with heroic action together."

Maintaining high group morale was crucial to success, Stone said.

Twelve-hour workdays underneath ice-covered branches weighing 175 pounds replaced workers' winter vacations.

The campus was "hanging by a thread," Stone said.

"If that (branch) comes crashing down on you there is no surviving," Stone said, acknowledging the dangers of vibrations from vehicles and chain saws.

Stone said he keeps a "one day at a time" philosophy in mind and looks forward to the outcome of a "stronger, more diverse Arboretum."

"It's overwhelming sometimes ... when you are out here it is just wall to wall sticks, where do you start?" he said.

With 60 to 75 percent of removal accomplished, the team is literally

picking up the pieces and waiting on the weather.

"We just can't do cleanup between snowstorms," Stone said. "Moral seems good, but we need it to stop snowing and we need spring to get here a little quicker."

Current cleanup consists of tree removal, while the next phase of cleanup, stump grinding, is dependent upon the snow clearing.

Meanwhile, the grounds crew is preparing to ride out winter conditions into the spring when replanting will begin.

"Every storm that comes in we watch and we are just getting ready for it," Stone said.

"It" is the Farmer's Almanac prediction of a February ice storm. Still yet to come, the storm would add one more to Stone's tally of 20 significant storms this year, which doesn't count light snow days.

In response to those who have labeled them heroes, Stone agrees that the entire group "came out with flying colors" and appreciates the "massive support and patience" from the community. No thanks are necessary, Stone said.

"We were just doing our job," he said. "Everyone pretty much understands this is not going to be a quick cleanup."

WELLNESS CENTER



A LOUISIANA NATIVE, Beau Dooley talks about his experiences prior to joining the Wellness Center staff at Northwest. Dooley enjoys playing blues guitar and has served as a health education specialist with the Peace Corps in West Africa.

Dooley boasts diverse resume

By Michael Clements
Chief Reporter

A southern gentleman, a wellness promoter and blues guitarist—that's Beau Dooley in a nutshell.

Dooley, director of wellness and assistant director of health, comes from Lafayette, La. "Cajun country" as he calls it.

With intentions of going to medical school, Dooley was a biology major.

"I became aware of public health as a field, and I decided that's where my true passion lied, was to practice public health instead of medicine," Dooley said.

Dooley applied for graduate school through the Master's Internships program along with the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps was practicum at the Tulane School of Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, Dooley said.

Dooley served in the Republic of Mali in West Africa.

"I was assigned to work for Save the Children USA, so my job was considered a health education specialist and I worked at their school health and nutrition program and did just a little bit of HIV/AIDS work as well," Dooley said.

"Typical volunteers tend to do more community grass roots developments in their villages; I actually had an eight to five job to go to every day."

Dooley calls the Peace Corps motto ("The toughest job you'll ever love") the most accurate he's ever heard.

"Every day was absolutely incredible and it was as over challenging in many ways," Dooley said. "It's definitely the most unique and most wonderful experience I've ever had."

Dooley became aware of college health as a possible career field after returning to the United States.

Before coming to Northwest, Dooley took a job as an alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention specialist at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. After two years, Dooley took the position of health promotion coordinator, similar to the director of wellness position he now has here.

"I would say I outgrew the job

and I was looking for a little bit more responsibility. I found a posting for the position which I currently hold, applied and I've been here since August 2007," Dooley said. "The general attitude on campus from everybody, just the general environment I think is really pleasant."

Dooley has worked with nationally award winning campus coalitions and calls his professional expertise substance abuse.

"Keeping not necessarily college students, but young people in the community from trying to experience with, use and abuse alcohol and other substances," Dooley said. "My certification title is Missouri Advanced Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Professional ... that certification sort of recognizes my expertise as a substance abuse expert in the state of Missouri."

Dooley is a friendly co-worker who is fun to work with, "Temporary Medical Secretary Nicole Williams said.

"He's very knowledgeable at his job and if we ever have questions, he's more than willing to answer them," Williams said. "He's willing to get to know the students better. Since he's so new here, he doesn't know as many people."

Promoting wellness for all students is one goal Dooley has for Northwest.

Growing up listening to classic rock, one of Dooley's hobbies is playing guitar. Playing guitar is a great stress reliever, he said.

"I've been playing guitar for about 17 to 18 years now," Dooley said. "I lived in New Orleans for a while, so I picked up playing the blues down in New Orleans."

Another hobby of his is running. Dooley participated in an ultra-marathon last year.

Promoting wellness for all students is one goal Dooley has for Northwest.

"Generally speaking to work with the student body to show the outreach of the Wellness Center," Dooley said. "I want students to recognize and experience the benefits of preventative medicine."

COMMUNITY

AREA DONATIONS

U.S. Bank gives to local organizations

By Micheal Clements
Chief Reporter

Several local not-for-profit organizations received funds through grants given by the U.S. Bancorp Foundation.

The foundation gave a total of \$46,000 to 17 organizations in northwest Missouri for capital campaigns and operating costs U.S. Bank spokeswoman Lisa Clark said.

U.S. Bank gave over \$19 million in 24 states last year, Clark said.

The Foundation gives grants annually to local organizations, Mark Cochran, Northwest Missouri market president for U.S. Bank said.

"The way we determine what money the foundation gives out to local organizations is based on local management," Cochran said. "We'll discuss organizations within the community that make the community a better place and work in all across Northwest Missouri."

Other organizations that received grants were Allied Arts Council of St. Joseph, American Red Cross, Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph, St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity, Heartland Foundation, Missouri Western State University Foundation, Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America, Second Harvest of Greater St. Joseph, United Way of Nodaway County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Nodaway County, Maryville St. Francis Hospital, Nodaway County Economic Development, Tarkio Renewal and the Northwest Foundation.

Any not-for-profit organization can apply online at Usbank.com/grants from the U.S. Bank Foundation.

to support us financially," Baird said. "All the funds we receive are used on the current home so any funds received now are applied to the construction of the 2008 home."

Habitat for Humanity homes are constructed through volunteer labor and donations. The homes are bought by qualified families on zero interest loans.

"Those type of donations like what we received from U.S. Bank is what keeps us able to carry out our mission which is to provide safe and affordable housing," Baird said.

The Foundation is tax deductible for U.S. Bank, Clark said.

"We're always evaluating the various needs charitable organization in the community," Cochran said. "I think it's something we need to do, we need to identify those organizations within the community that make the community a better place and work in all across Northwest Missouri."

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DELBERT'S GARAGE

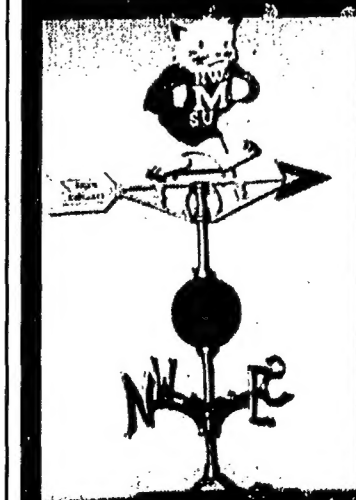
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MARYVILLE FFA

Week of work, play for FFA

By Nicole Richardson
Missourian Reporter

Pizza and its toppings come from many different agricultural products, as taught to the children at St. Gregory's Catholic School by the Maryville National FFA Organization chapter.

The members of the Maryville FFA went to St. Gregory's Feb. 21 as a part of National FFA Week.

The time was spent educating the children about agricultural products and how they are a part of our everyday life.

"The kids were really interactive and excited about the information. We got tons of 'thank you's' from them and the members really loved that. They already have their wheel spinning for next year," Jackie Lacy, the Maryville FFA adviser said.

"It is great because the children get to learn that all of these things come from the farm, and then they can relate it to their friends who live on farms and

it gives them something to talk about," Jamie Casteel, a St. Gregory's teacher said.

The children were taught where the dough, sauce and all assortments of pizza toppings like onions, hamburger and pepperoni come from.

Along with volunteering for the community, FFA week was full of fun for the high school students.

The annual Barnwarming dance was held in the agriculture shop at Northwest Technical School, where King Zach Steines, Queen Lindsay Shipley, Prince Clint Thompson and Princess Morgan Shipley were all crowned.

Implement Apparel Day was Feb. 19, where students wore their favorite implement clothing and competed to see who had the most; John Deere or Case brands.

A student breakfast and FFA spirit day was held Feb. 20, where members sported their National

Blue and Corn Gold colors. The week concluded on Feb. 22 with Tractor Day. Students were able to drive their tractors to school in place of cars.

The weather drowned the tractor attendance to two, but the spirit was still there.

Robert Redford and Jordan Hal were the only two who braved the chilly weather.

The two borrowed their tractors so they could drive in a cab instead of sitting out on an open seat.

"Even though it was cold, I would do it again in a heartbeat," Redford said.

It was surely an experience for the two freshmen, who said they enjoyed the activities of FFA week and look forward to it next year.

After the students arrived at Maryville High School Friday morning, they were set to attend the Farm Show at the American Royal Complex, but their trip got canceled due to bad weather.

LOCAL HEALTH

St. Francis Hospital offers Outreach services

By Erin Loges
Missourian Reporter

Besides staffing St. Francis Hospital and Health Services, the doctors of St. Francis Family Health Care provide services at several outreach clinics in the Maryville area.

Rural Health clinics are located in Bedford, Iowa, Burlington Junction and Grant City. The Bedford clinic was the first to open in 1998.

"Our goal is to bring medical services to patients who might be in more remote areas," clinic nurse manager Marcia Beason said. St. Francis was able to create

outreach clinics partially because of the Rural Health Clinics Act, passed by Congress in 1977.

Each clinic is staffed by a nurse practitioner and a cooperating physician.

"We have Dr. Singh here on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and the nurse practitioner comes in the afternoons," said Beverly King, who works in the Grant City clinic.

Services provided at all clinics include laboratory testing.

The clinics also provide other services, such as radiology at Bedford and Ob/gyn services at Burlington Junction and Grant City.

Many people in the area depend on the clinics for health services.

"Our rural health clinics, with our nurse practitioners, play a significant role in providing medical care to underserved areas," Beason said.

CITY BRIEFS

Local Iowa man is sentenced 13 years

David Holste, 37, of Clarinda, Iowa, plead guilty to three felony convictions in Nodaway County.

Holste was charged with possessing pseudophedrine with intent to make meth. He received a three year conviction for that charge.

Holste was on probation for two stealing convictions. He was ordered to serve 10 years to serve those convictions.

Two Nodaway County men plead guilty to drug, meth charges

Kurby Parman, 57, of Barnard plead guilty to manufacturing meth. Sentencing is set for March 10.

Ken Davis, 27, of Maryville pled guilty to marijuana possession. He will be sentenced March 24.

Maryville troops leaving for Kosovo

A sendoff for the Missouri National Guard is scheduled for Monday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

A firetruck and police escort will accompany the troops from the Armory to the south exit of the city. The procession will begin at North Country Club Road to 16th Street, travel east until Main Street. From there they will turn south on Main Street until exiting the city at the Highway 71 bypass.

Maryville citizens can show their support by lining the streets and displaying banners, posters and flags. Citizens interested in helping with the procession can contact Suzanne Von Behren at 582-8643.

ADVERTISEMENT

Are You Looking Inside Out?

A message from the Northwest Wellness Center



By Kersten Hauge White, Ph.D.
Counseling Services/Wellness Center

Try an experiment today. Ask someone you know to tell you about a good friend, family member, or someone who is important to him/her. Chances are the description will include the qualities he or she admires in that person. It is less likely that much, if any, of the description involved body weight, shape or appearance. What does that tell you?

We live in a society where we are bombarded by messages about appearance. Not only do we hear them, we believe them. In order to be happy or feel good about ourselves, we believe we have to be a certain dress size or have rock-hard abs. If we do not look a certain way, we convince ourselves that we have little value. This leads to feelings of unhappiness, pain and loneliness.

What we fail to realize is that what people truly appreciate is what we appreciate in others. When we describe the important people in our lives, we use such words as kind, helpful, thoughtful, appreciative, supportive, friendly, generous, loving, sincere, creative, funny, smart, compassionate, talented, giving and encouraging. It's not often you will hear, "The person who has influenced me the most is John because of his killer pecs," or "Because of Emily's thin build, I am now a better person."

Chances are, if you were being described by a friend, your looks would not be the focus. So why make your looks the focus over how you feel about yourself? By challenging ourselves to look from the inside out rather than the outside in, we more accurately perceive and appreciate who we truly are.

Doesn't that feel better?

This is a message from the Northwest Wellness Center. For more information about this topic, or to learn about our services for students, please call ext. 1348.

We are the specialists in college health.

NORTHWEST

This part musical comedy, part B-movie horror, cult classic is coming to Northwest Missouri State University

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday Feb. 28, 29 and March 1
Performing Arts Center

Join in the fun. Tickets are available at the Performing Arts Center before the show. Students, faculty and staff may get tickets at the Student Services Center.

Tickets: \$8 students, faculty, seniors, \$10 public
Call 660-562-1321 for more information.

Northwest Legislative Reception
March 11, 2008

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2008 Women's Basketball Schedule
Mar. 1 at Fort Hays State
Hays, Kan. 5:30 p.m.

2008 Men's Basketball Schedule
Mar. 1 at Fort Hays State
Hays, Kan. 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 6-9 MIAA Tournament
Kansas City, Mo. TBA

Mar. 7-9 MIAA Tournament
Kansas City, Mo. TBA

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OUR VIEW

Plan should consider future enrollment data

Since the start of the trimester Northwest's Board of Regents has been discussing the possibility of a "Village at Northwest."

In case you haven't heard of this proposal, here is a brief rundown of the plan. The Northwest Foundation currently owns 66 acres on the west side of Icon/Country Club Road.

If implemented, the plan would develop an urban-style village on those 66 acres, donated to the University from the Foundation.

The village would include offices, stores and restaurants mixed with single-family homes, town houses and loft-style condominiums.

The village concept is based on a successful "village" at Hendrix College in Arkansas.

The biggest difference between Northwest and Hendrix is that Northwest is located in a smaller community.

Chief of Staff and General Counsel Joe Cornelison stated in an earlier Northwest Missourian article that the village could possibly provide housing to retired Northwest alumni who may be interested returning to Maryville.

The proposal peaked the interest of some Northwest alumni who contacted the Foundation after the initial Board of Regents meeting, according to University Vice President of Advancement Orrie Covert.

The Northwest Missourian believes the village proposal sounds like a wonderful idea on paper.

However, if the University plans to expand enrollment by 20 percent in the next five years the proposal's research should include a plan of how those 66 acres might also facilitate new classroom buildings and student housing.

The "Village at Northwest" proposal could work for our city and University. Students, alumni and faculty alike would certainly benefit from additional living, dining and entertainment options near campus.

However, the University needs to look at how this plan would fit into the proposed enrollment expansion as well.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the New Nodaway Humane Society, I extend our congratulations and gratitude to the many Maryville students who recently participated in the Pay It Forward program.

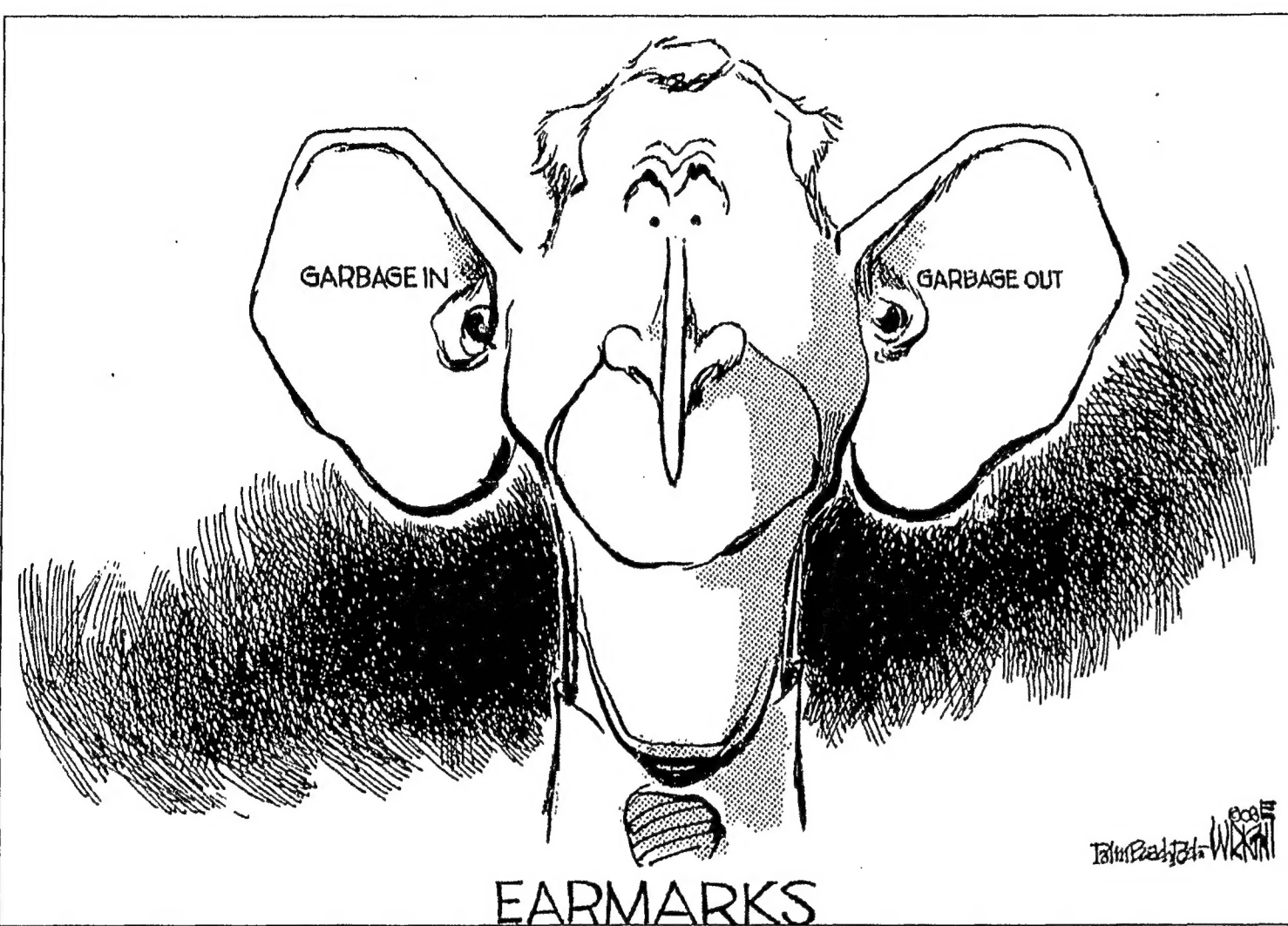
Because of their compassion and hard work, they raised more than \$425 to help benefit the animals currently housed at our community's shelter. Another kind-hearted student collected supplies and made a video.

Their enthusiasm for the Pay It Forward project helped raise funds for a variety of causes, each with a unique manner of helping those in our community and beyond. They, along with the teachers, parents, friends and neighbors who support them in such endeavors, are a true reflection of what makes Maryville such a wonderful place to live.

The New Nodaway Humane Society is fortunate to have a diverse group of organizations, businesses, students and volunteers, including those from the (Missouri) Academy Animal Association and Northwest Advocates for Animal Awareness, who give time, talents and donations to help us in our mission to provide homes to the abused, neglected and abandoned and help promote pet adoption and the humane treatment of all animals.

It is with the help of these amazing people that we will succeed in our mission.

Sincerely,
Kelley Baldwin,
Maryville



MY VIEW

New Cuban leader could open the door for U.S. relations

When deciding whom you want to be your next president, there are several issues to consider. Let me add one more to the list: the future relations between two countries with new leaders, the United States and Cuba.

After the resignation of Fidel Castro, and the Cuban legislative session's election of younger brother and interim leader Raul Castro, there seems to be one word stuck in everyone's minds—and that is "reform."

Will a new leader cause change in a country that plays a distinct role in our history, or is it only a hope, and little more?

I believe change will occur although I do not think it will be anything dramatic or even



Kathleen Wilmes
Contributing Columnist

all that noticeable at first. The main areas that will be most affected are the Cuban economy and the release of certain prisoners who were imprisoned for dissenting against the Castro regime, a clear step in the right direction for human rights. I do think that change will occur gradually and most definitely be felt in the lives of those in future generations. But it might not be just Cuba changing.

With a newly elected U.S. president, it will be interesting to see if the relations between the two countries will change or remain the same.

The current administration is certainly doubtful of any real change in Cuba's leader-

ship style, emphasizing that until elections of a free and democratic nature take place, Cuba will remain in the same circle it has for the 49 years—which most certainly is not the best.

But what happens when President Bush steps down from office, and somebody else steps in, whether a Democrat or a Republican?

A change in the relationship between the two countries is desirable and necessary. But a change in the outlook on human rights issues, and how it is carried out, is also desirable and absolutely necessary.

If both countries want to change how things are done, they need to start playing nicely together and remember that compromise is the best course of action in any union, whether in civil unions or those of a foreign nature.

COMMENTS FROM
NWMISSOURIANNEWS.COM



(The following comments have not been edited or changed. They appear in print as they do on the Web site.)

"Should" should start now (E.S.) posted 2/22

I like the fact that you started to look at a candidate on a deeper level. Thank you for this. I appreciate media outlets that help to educate the public by expanding on issues. Yes you (all) can't unfortunately a for-profit media always in search of a nifty sound bite. I prefer a positive one like "Yes We Can" to arrogant ones like "Bring It On." Kudos to you for bringing up the "Should." It makes me want to think a little about the past and present, before I can even consider thinking about the fall. Should we have ever gone to war with a country that was not involved in September 11 and did not have weapons of mass destruction? Should we have listened to the U.N. weapons inspectors that told us Iraq was not a threat? Should we first start thinking about where our tax dollars are going? I'm confused about why we want tax cuts, but support spending a lot of money in areas where the return is questionable—that is, unless you are a contractor in the military industrial complex. According to the National Priorities Project, the war has cost our country of Maryville over \$10M. The entire nation has contributed over \$496B. (And I thought I had budgeting issues). Shouldn't we start to wonder who is benefiting from a long-term strategy of occupation and control of resources? Shouldn't we stop being led by mantras of fear and instead positive words of hope?

I'm not sure I'd agree with you more, but I would love to hear you with an even stronger voice of what you mean. Maybe expand just a bit more about why you hold your position on tax cuts, troop surge, and experience factors. Again, thanks for the topic. I enjoyed your perspective and am glad you encourage your audience to ask questions. Good work.

Linda Hickerson posted 2/21

I'm not an Obama supporter (at all), but I thought the editorial was ridiculously silly and clueless. Exactly WHY should Obama waste his time talking about why we SHOULD take a particular path when nobody else in this election (or really any election) talks about that when they speak? Most voters already know why they support a particular side on an issue and don't need a candidate to explain to them why we should go in that direction. You guys, for some reason, want to apply a standard to Obama that you're not applying to any other candidate. I don't see John McCain going around explaining why we SHOULD support the positions he advocates, but you guys move the goalpost for republicans so I guess that would be asking too much that would be asking too much. Beyond that, substantive discussions of issues don't get media coverage. Period. It's not quite as much fun as the labeling and badmouthing of politicians people in your profession engage in. You should know that. If you really want to know WHY Obama takes a particular position on an issue, and the arguments for whether we SHOULD go to his web site. Duh! In the mean time, try to have some actual integrity. It's a cool experience, trust me, and apply the same standards to everybody. If you want to slam Obama, fine, there are lots of reasons for doing so, just like there are lots of reasons to slam other candidates. But face it, your editorial was a desperate attempt to just find some angle, however obtuse, to say something negative about a popular democratic candidate. You clearly had made no attempt to educate yourself about Obama and answer the very question you pose.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Feb. 9 ■ Travis L. Smith, Tarkenton, Mo., affray, 300 block N. Market.
Feb. 10 ■ Sexual misconduct, ongoing investigation, 200 block N. Mulberry.
Feb. 15 ■ Shellee N. McGinnis, 19, Maryville, MIJ, 1400 block E. Third St.
■ Amanda C. Seville, 18, Maryville, MIJ, 500 block E. Seventh St.
Feb. 16 ■ Alyssa N. Carmichael, 18, Maryville, MIJ, 300 block E. Eighth St.
■ Charo E. Cole, 20, Maryville, MIJ, possession of an open container in a vehicle; Lynne M. Cuda, 19, Maryville, MIJ, possession of an open container in a vehicle; Benjamin J. McGory, 19, Maryville, MIJ, zero tolerance, improper left turn; Timothy W. Miller, 20, Maitland, Mo., MIJ, operating with an open container, 300 block W. Fourth St.
■ Kaylann K. Brodick, 20, Spring, Texas, DWI, failure to display headlights, 100 block E. Third St.
■ Aaron S. Knepp, 23, Maryville, operating with an open container, 300 block E. Eighth St.
Feb. 17 ■ Andrea J. Bintliff, 19, Maryville, MIJ, zero tolerance, operating with an open container, equipment violation, 200 block W. Eighth St.
■ Fire report, State Highway 46 West.
Feb. 18 ■ Fraud, ongoing investigation, 400 block N. Main.
■ Lost/stolen property, ongoing investigation, 400 block N. Buchanan.
Feb. 19 ■ Lost/stolen property, ongoing investigation, 1600 block South Main.
■ Donald R. Pivarel, III, 23, Maryville, larceny, 1600 S. Main.
■ Thomas E. Hooker, 47, Westchester, Penn., code violation, 100 block W. Ninth St.
Feb. 20 ■ Cynthia L. Hunt, 48, Maryville, code violation, 200 block W. Fourth St.
■ Brandon W. Dallen, 35, Maryville, code violation, 300 block N. Mulberry.
■ Property damage, ongoing investigation, 400 block N. Walnut.
■ Stolen vehicle, ongoing investigation, 200 block W. Fourth St.
Feb. 21 ■ Ashleigh C. Curry, 22, St. Joseph, Mo., possession of altered/fake license, 300 block N. Market.
Feb. 22 ■ Third degree assault, ongoing investigation, 1000 block N. Buchanan.
ACCIDENTS
Feb. 17 ■ John Mundorck, 34, Maryville, 1600 block S. Main.
Feb. 20 ■ Amber T. Anderson, 26, Maryville, collided with Genevieve M. Fulsom, 30, Maryville at the intersection of U.S. Business Highway 71 and East Liberty streets.
■ Robert C. Dunkel, 75, Maryville, collided with Kevin J. Deardorff, 44, Ravenwood, Mo., at the intersection of U.S. Business Highway 71 South and East Summit Drive.

The REAL WORLD is waiting, LET IT!

JOHNATHAN L. MEYER
ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

MASTERS OF LAW IN TAXATION

Johnathan L. Meyer received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Northwest Missouri State University, Juris Doctorate, and Masters of Law in Taxation from University of Missouri—Kansas City

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Northwest Missouri State University

SEAT BELT SAFETY



DYLAN HAGEY IS strapped into the Seat Belt Convincer by Missouri Highway State Patrol officer Sgt. Sheldon Lyons. The Seat Belt Convincer is a simulated car accident where students are strapped into the machine and "rolled" down the incline. Participants learn the value of wearing a seat belt.

Students learn value of safety

By Katie Luers
Missourian Reporter

West Nodaway High School looks to continue success with seatbelt safety awareness.

The school recently won a contest by having 79 percent of students wear seatbelts while driving to school.

The school participated in the "Battle of the Belt" contest from Oct. 4 through Nov. 8.

Three school organizations helped with the contest. The Family Career and Community Leaders of America, Future Teachers of America and Student Council gave time to help with the contest.

The contest required the students to promote seatbelt usage. Students accomplished this by making posters, providing safety trivia, showing a Family Career and Community Leaders of America members Heath Harris, Matt Saville, Landon Wood and Brent

speaker. Many of the high school students live close to school and don't think that seatbelts are necessary.

"Too many people go without seatbelts," junior Valysa Downing said.

The entire school participated in the contest.

Missouri Highway Patrol Sgt. Sheldon Lyons spoke at the school and gave an accident simulation to the students.

The Seat Belt Convincer simulated an accident for students by strapping them into a machine that rolled down an incline to an abrupt stop. Participants even learned the value of a seatbelt traveling approximately 5 miles per hour.

Another group of students submitted a public service announcement, Family Career and Community Leaders of America members Heath Harris, Matt Saville, Landon Wood and Brent

Barnett created a radio announcement about seatbelt safety.

The winning announcement will play on radio stations across the state to promote seatbelts. The contest winner is announced in March.

West Nodaway hopes to continue the trend of seatbelt excellence.

Contest sponsor Linda Estes hopes to find other programs to help promote seatbelt safety in the future.

Seatbelt awareness affects the whole community of Nodaway County. Director of Public Safety Keith Wood promotes seatbelt safety. "Short and simple, it saves lives," Wood referring to wearing a seatbelt said.

Maryville begins a program soon that will check teenage drivers for wearing their seatbelts. Drivers wearing seatbelts when checked will be given a reward.

LEAP: Students reach their '5th' birthdays

Continued from A1

"I would get made fun of every once in a while," Thompson shrugged. "But I would just fire back with 'how dumb do you feel being in the same class as a 2 year-old?'"

Sophomore Megan Switzer has gone down a similar path as a Leap Year baby. However, growing up, Switzer claims that kids didn't really give her a hard time.

"I didn't get made fun of really," Switzer claimed. "Other kids were mostly just confused about how the whole Leap Year thing worked."

There were some benefits on Switzer's side when she was younger, because her family would celebrate both Feb. 28 and March 1 as if they were both her birthdays in non-Leap Year years.

Thompson would usually celebrate the day on Feb. 28.

"When I was younger, my parents tried to make the day seem a little bit more special on days of my actual birthday," Thompson said with a smile. "Nowadays, however, now that I'm older, I don't do anything too special."

The odds of being a Leap Year baby are about one in 1,500. There are also some special occasions and clubs designated for Leap Year babies or "Leapies," such as the Worldwide Leap Year Festival and the Worldwide Leap Year Birthday Club.

"When it comes down to it, it's really just another day," Thompson said. "I'm just like everybody else. I just got stuck with an odd birthday."

Of course, there are some benefits that "Leapies" may try to take advantage of. Switzer laughed when she told about a time she tried to order food at a restaurant. "The menu said 5 and under ate for free," Switzer laughed. "I tried to claim I was five but it didn't work."

Thompson had his own interesting story when it comes to being a "Leapie."

"I tried to go to Bottle Hall last week and take advantage of it," Thompson smiled. "It was \$15 for adults, and kids 5 and under got in for free. They looked at me like I was stupid when I told them I was under 5."

As Feb. 29 draws closer, Leap Year babies will be able to celebrate the day they can't have every year. That day is their actual birthday.

When Thompson turns 20 or in this case 5, he claims he won't be doing anything special.

"To be honest, I'm not doing anything real special," he said. "I can't do much until I'm 21 anyway."

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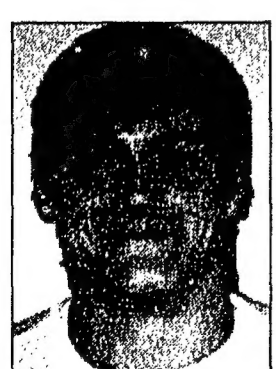
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CAMPUS TALK

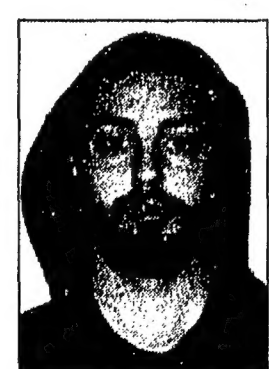
If you could change one thing about the Northwest campus, what would it be?



"Public Transportation and a shuttle to class,"
Josh Greenlee
Marketing, Management



"Underground tunnels for the winter,"
Shea Pockham
Speech, Communication



"Parking,"
Micah Schmidt
Business Management



"A 24-hour library,"
Britany Keeshan
Organizational Communication



"New road systems, and more women,"
London Bosio
History

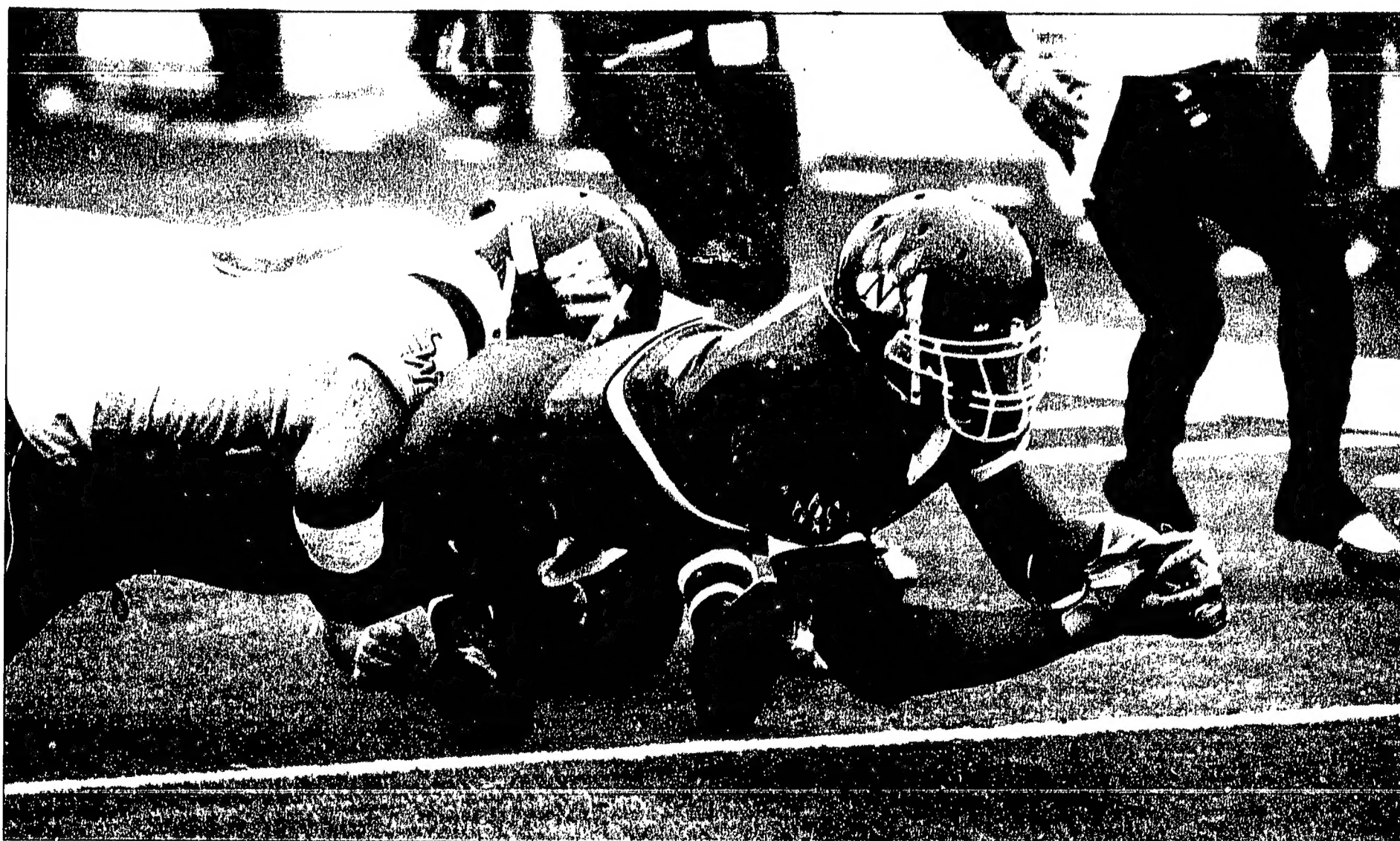
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SPORTS

MISSOURIAN
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Runnin' down a dream



FORMER NORTHWEST RUNNING back Xavier Omon was one of 31 running back participants at the NFL Scouting combine. Omon ranked 18th in the 40-yard dash, 16th in the bench press and 18th in the vertical jump. Omon returns to Maryville March 10 as Northwest hosts a pro day.

Former Northwest running back battles sore knee at NFL Scouting Combine

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Former Northwest running back Xavier Omon has waited his whole life to play in the NFL, and last Sunday, he had his chance to showcase his skills to his future employers.

Omon participated in the NFL Scouting Combine along with 332 other pro-bound prospects. The Combine features an invite-only crop of college football's best players preparing for the NFL draft April 26.

Omon was one of 31 running backs invited to participate in the event.

"It's like a meat market," Omon said. "People are grabbing you and doing whatever they want. They're checking on you because there's a lot of money involved."

"It wasn't a big deal being around all those Division I players. When they put on the pads, they're just like you. The biggest deal was feeling like a slab of meat."

The event started last Friday, with kickers and punters taking center stage. When Omon finally got his opportunity Sunday, knee problems hindered his audition.

"I hyper-extended my knee at the Texas versus The Nation All-Star game," Omon said. "I tried resting before the Combine, but it was still sore. But I got invited for a reason, so I ran. I'm not in the situation like Darren McFadden, so I decided to run."

In the Combine's staple event, the 40-yard dash, Omon's knee problems slowed his time, as he ended with a 4.59. Former East Carolina running back Chris Johnson posted the best running back time at 4.24, while Yvenson

Bernard ran the slowest time of all running backs at 4.83.

Omon's time ranked him 18th out of 26 participants.

"I should have run a better time," Omon said. "I don't think the coaches knew about my sore knee. I didn't try to bring it to life. There's no excuse. I'm not letting a sore knee hold me back."

In other events, Omon leaped 31 inches in the vertical jump, good enough for 18th among backs. His 17 bench press repetitions placed him 16th out of 21 participants.

Omon said his knee problems stymied his vertical jump, but his bench press mark was his career best.

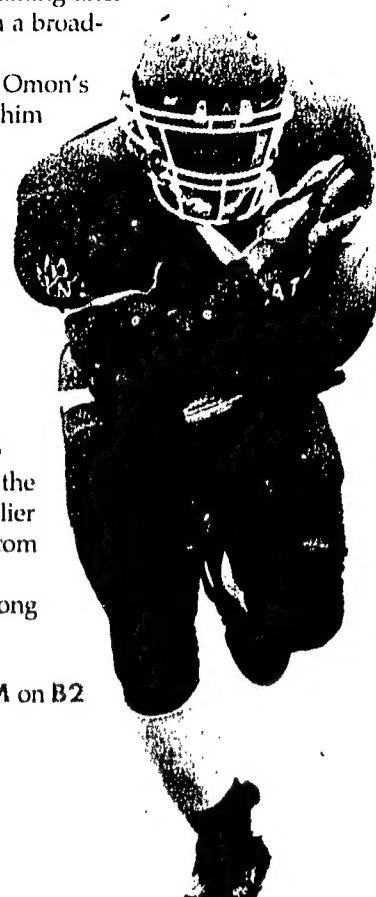
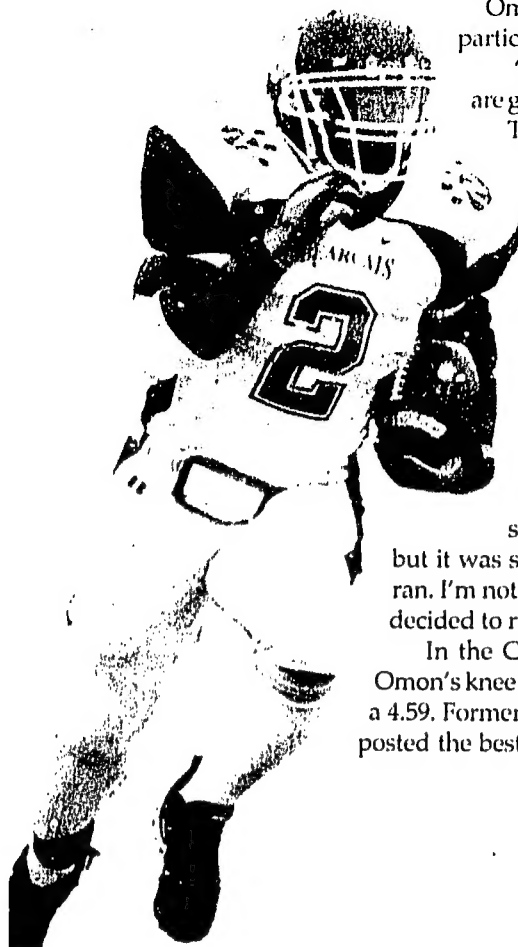
Other pro prospects joined Omon in training for these specific events in New Jersey. Omon began training after graduating from Northwest in December with a broadcasting degree.

Northwest head coach Mel Tjeerdsma said Omon's ability to adapt to new environments helped him adjust to different events.

"He's a very independent individual and he's confident," Tjeerdsma said. "He can adapt pretty well to anything and I think his level of maturity has gotten a lot better since he came here as an 18-year-old."

Omon's performances at Northwest and the Combine have NFL draft experts rating his stock. Scouting Web sites and NFL draft publications have listed the 5-foot-11, 228-pound running back as a late round draft pick. Scout.com has Omon listed as the No. 26 running back overall, down from his earlier No. 19 ranking. However, NFLdraftcountdown.com has him listed as the 15th best back overall.

Publications have also noted Omon as a strong sleeper candidate. A sleeper is someone picked



40 time:
4.59
18th out of 26

Vertical:
31
18th out of 24

Bench:
17
16th out of 21

See DREAM on B2

MHS GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Girls begin districts with blowout win

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

The Maryville girls' basketball team had been waiting a long time for this.

In a season geared toward winning three games, it would be hard to imagine the Spoofhounds getting off to a better district start.

Maryville (17-6) wasted little time in dispatching its first-round opponent, Trenton, rolling to a 26-10 halftime advantage. It only got worse for the Bulldogs in the second half, as the 'Hounds used two 16-point quarters to bury them 58-27.

Sophomore Emily Kisker, who led all scorers with 17 points, knew motivation would not be a problem.

"We were ready to play as soon as we got out of school," Kisker said. "We were really pumped up in the locker room and started out with a lot of intensity. We came out and showed that we deserved to win. That's what we've been working for."

In a rematch of last year's first-round district clash, this game hardly resembled its predecessor (54-49 Maryville). This time, the 'Hounds, who were the lowest seed in last season's matchup, had the No. 2 seed, while the Bulldogs had the No. 7 seed.

The seeds turned out to be appropriate, as the only time the game was within two scores was in the first period.

Each team had offensive difficulties early on, but Maryville was able to emerge from the scoring drought with a 10-5 lead before freshman Shannon McClellan's 3-pointer with seven seconds to go gave the team an eight-point edge and a much-needed offensive spark.

See DISTRICTS on B3

NW INDOOR TRACK

Sprinters powering men, women into conference meet

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

Northwest indoor track is about to shift from an individual sport to a team sport.

The MIAA Championships will give the Bearcats a chance to compete as a team for the first time this indoor season.

"This thing is a whole new ball game," Northwest men's coach Richard Alsup said.

During their final tune-up at the Prairie Wolf Invitational, Alsup's bunch had both good and bad news. The good news came in the forms of Sheldon Cook, Kendall Wright and Ben McKim. Cook finished first in the 200-meter dash while Wright finished first among non-Division I athletes in the long jump. McKim placed third in the shot put.

If the 'Cats do well, people like Cook and Wright must have good conference meets, captain Khai Berry said.

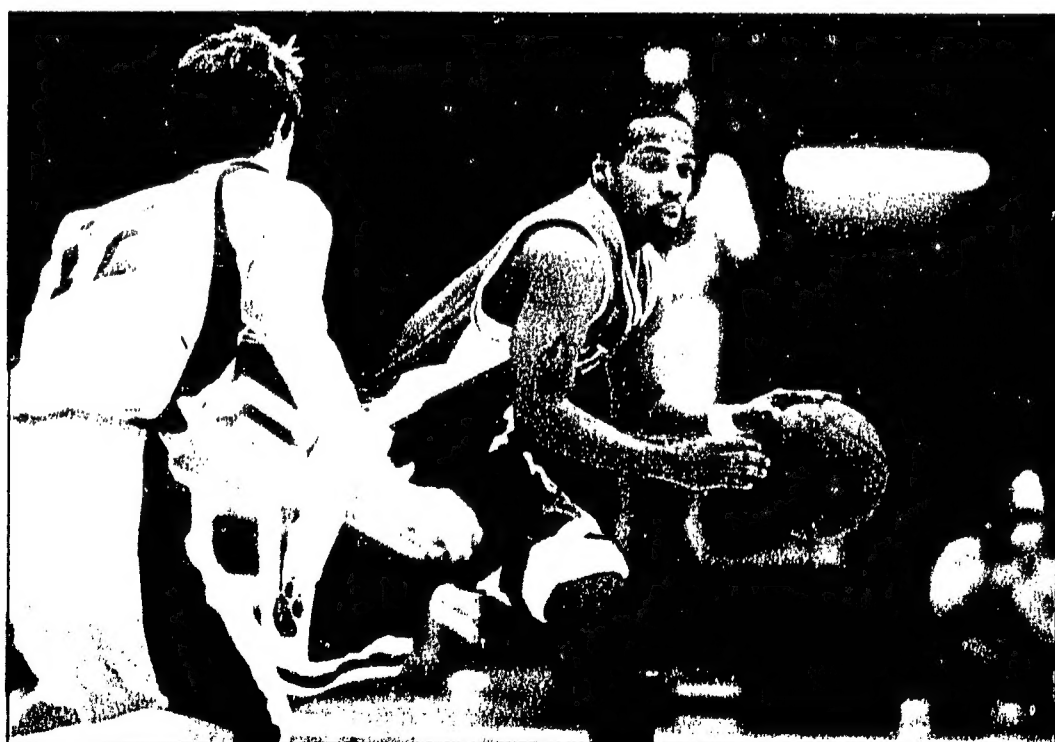
"If we can get surprises at other places that would help a lot, but our sprints, and hurdles and long jumps have to come through for us," Berry said. "From the 400 down, we have to score."

In events more than 400 meters, the men don't have anyone in the MIAA's Top 5 so far this year.

Pole-vaulting provided the bad news with the loss of senior Brad Cox. The team took a crushing blow when Cox, who was competing in his first meet back from injury last weekend, dislocated and broke his arm, possibly ending his track career.

See SPRINTERS on B2

NW MEN'S BASKETBALL



NORTHWEST GUARD EDDIE Gray eyes an opening in the Missouri Southern game during last Saturday's 77-56 win. The Bearcats have won five out of their last six games. Northwest returns to action at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, at Fort Hays State.

Aim shifts to higher tourney seed

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Northwest stayed in the MIAA race for nearly the entire season before Southwest Baptist claimed the championship Tuesday night against Central Missouri.

The talk is over, and that suits the team just fine.

"I don't think it was a big factor. We hadn't talked much about conference races," coach Steve Tappmeyer said.

What's left for Northwest going into Saturday's regular season finale at Fort Hays State is trying to lock up the No. 2 seed for next Friday's MIAA tournament at Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Northwest forward Kelvin Cayruth insists it's about getting the team to gel at the right time with the regional tournament just over two weeks away.

"We need to play with a lot of chemistry," Cayruth said. "The teams that are good in the postseason play with good chemistry."

Last Saturday's win over Missouri Southern may have given the team the shot in the arm it needs. With 16:19 left in the second half, Tappmeyer was ejected after receiving two technical fouls in 17 seconds. The game was tied at 36. Northwest went on to win 77-56.

"It wasn't a very smart thing on my part, but I was really pleased with the response," Tappmeyer said of his teams' 65 percent shooting in the second half. "They pulled together, kept a nice calm about them and took care of business."

Cayruth said the team came together after some inspirational words from forward Matt Withers.

"Matt came to the huddle and told us this should be a message to us," Cayruth said. "If that doesn't fire you up, then I don't know what will."

While the win was much needed after an embarrassing loss to Washburn Feb. 20, Northwest faces a Fort Hays State team that has changed considerably from last season.

The Tigers were injury-riddled last season, going 13-15 in their first season in the MIAA. This season, Fort Hays is 17-8 and 9-7 in the MIAA, and were No. 8 in the South Central region entering Wednesday.

"We knew when they came into the league that they were going to be a tough basketball school," Tappmeyer said. "They had a lot of injuries last year, so you know they weren't going to be down long."

Northwest defeated Fort Hays 69-53 at Bearcat Arena Jan. 5. In that game, the Bearcats used a 10-2 run to jump out to a nine-point halftime lead. Fort Hays shot 52 percent in the first half, but Northwest was able to hold them to 34 percent shooting in the second half, and force 23 turnovers for the game.

"They're very athletic. They're probably one of the most athletic teams we've faced," guard John Hawkins said. "We're going to have to get out there and stay disciplined and play defense the entire shot clock."

NW SOFTBALL

Power surge helps team to 3rd place

By Brian Bosiljevic
Missourian Reporter

The Northwest softball team took third place last Saturday and Sunday at the Arkansas Tech Spring Slam Tournament, going 3-2 during the weekend.

The Bearcats started the tournament off with a 12-run victory against William Penn in a game where all nine batters crossed the plate at least once, in a 17-5 win. Later in the tournament, the 'Cats overtook the Statesmen again in a 10-7 contest.

"We totally wanted to dominate them. We definitely didn't want to play down to their level," pitcher Cola Krueger said, who finished the weekend with 10 strikeouts. "We knew it wasn't going to be a close game, and we wanted to make sure that we showed them our full potential."

In the first meeting between the 'Cats and the Statesmen, Kalia Ballard went 3-for-4 with two doubles and five RBIs. Erin Leslie added two RBIs and two stolen bases. Leslie is a perfect 7-of-7 for stolen bases and leads the team in that category.

When the two teams faced each other the next day, the results were similar. Casey Carter went 4-for-4 with a triple and two RBIs, while Courtney Channell added her season's second homer. Tiffany Carter joined Channell among the home run hitters with a three-run blast. She

also drove in five runners on the day.

The only team to manage to slow down the 'Cats' bats was the host team Arkansas Tech. The Golden Sun's pitcher, Casey Hammons, held the 'Cats to just three hits. The Golden Suns went on to win the rest of their games and take first in the tournament.

"She (Hammons) was the first pitcher to actually move the ball against us. We got on her late but we just couldn't get it together against her," coach Ryan Anderson said.

Northwest ended the tournament successfully, thanks to Channell's 4-for-4 day, and bringing in the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh against MIAA rival Pittsburg State.

"For not being outside much, we played well. We did a lot of good things but obviously we had mistakes from not being on the dirt," Anderson said. "Practicing inside hurts us because nothing is realistic. The ball bounces different, pitchers throw different, everything is different."

This tournament counted as only the 'Cats' second time being outside this season, and they have not been able to practice outside once this year.

The team travels to Pittsburg State for the weekend. The team will play Pittsburg State this weekend. Northwest will face Drury and Southern Arkansas on Saturday and Henderson State and Missouri Southern on Sunday.

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



MEGHAN BRUE DRIVES past Missouri Southern guard Danielle DeVader last Saturday at Missouri Southern. Brue had 15 points, and pulled down 10 rebounds in the 73-62 win. Northwest closes the regular season Saturday at Fort Hays State.

Tournament bid on the line

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

The Northwest women's basketball team doesn't have much time left to impress the NCAA selection committee.

In fact, the Bearcats have one week to add to their resume. Northwest women's coach Gene Steinmeyer said there's still time to impress the regional committee.

"Before the region even discusses us, we need 18 wins," Steinmeyer said. "That got us in last year, and it all starts (this week)."

Last year, the 'Cats were 18-11 after the MIAA tournament and entered the regional tournament as a seventh seed. This year, Northwest owns a 14-11 (as of press time, check NWmissourianews.com for Wednesday's result) overall record.

"Last year, we weren't sure we were in, but we were pretty confident," senior guard Lauren Williams said. "This year, we have no clue. That puts a lot of pressure on us right now."

If the 'Cats were to reach the 18-win plateau, they would have to advance to the MIAA tournament finals.

"We're trying not to think that far in advance to making the conference championship," senior guard April Miller said. "We're taking it one game at a time right now and know we just have to keep on track."

Beating the conference's elite competition has not been the 'Cats problem this year. Northwest has wins against regionally ranked teams such as Southwest Baptist, Missouri Southern and Washburn. Last year's tournament team didn't have one win against a ranked team.

The 'Cats obstacle this year has been inconsistency, Steinmeyer said. Northwest owns two four-game winning streaks. The 'Cats have also endured a four and three-game losing streak.

"We've shown we're better than last year's team at some points and not as good at some points," Steinmeyer said. "We have been consistent during our last four games, though."

After a 96-52 setback against Central Missouri, Northwest has rattled off three wins in the last four contests.

"The Central game was our low point of the season," Miller said. "Hopefully that was the down moment, and now we're peaking."

In order to reach the MIAA finals, the 'Cats must win five consecutive games. That's something Northwest hasn't done since November 2004.

"We've been consistent at being inconsistent," Steinmeyer said. "We started out 4-0, and then we lost some games, and then went on another winning streak, and lost some games. How long can we keep this going? I'd like to see us continue what we've done over these past four games."

Northwest's regional tournament trek continues at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, at Fort Hays State, a team the 'Cats defeated 67-50 Jan. 5. Fort Hays currently sits tied with Missouri Western for the eighth MIAA spot.

The Lady Tigers face a must-win to keep pace with Missouri Western for eighth and final MIAA tournament spot.

"We're facing two desperate teams this week," Steinmeyer said. "They have to beat us. We have six seniors, and it's their last regular season. If that's not enough to motivate them, I don't know what would."

BEARCATS

MEN'S STATISTICS

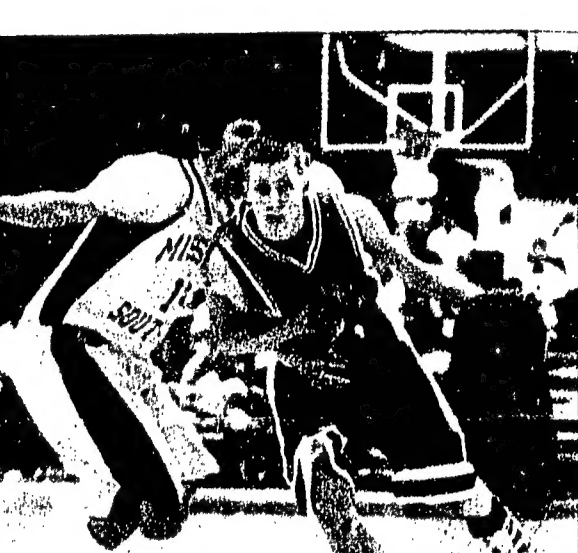
Northwest	Opponent
72.0	Points/game 60.3
44.8	Field goal pct. 42.4
35.0	Rebounds/game 31.1
13.7	Assists/game 13.4
35.7	Three point pct. 32.7
13.6	Turnovers/game 18.4
10.0	Steals/game 7.3
70.8	Free throw pct. 68.8
1.9	Blocks/game 3.2

CONFERENCE LEADERS

Scoring per game	Steals per game
1. D. Townsend-ESU 19.3	1. S. Bowlin-MSSU 2.36
2. C. Abercrombie-PSU 18.6	2. D. Byrd-UCM 2.12
3. R. Bunch-MWSU 17.1	3. L. Johnson-MWSU 1.84
12. H. Henry-NW 13.1	4. L. Sullivan-NW 1.80
17. L. Sullivan-NW 11.5	7. M. Howard-NW 1.74
	8. A. Peterson-NW 1.6

Rebounds per game	Assists per game
1. C. Abercrombie-PSU 10.4	1. D. Townsend-ESU 5.67
2. K. Snyder-WU 7.8	2. T. Jeffries-FHSU 4.16
7. R. Bunch-MWSU 7.3	3. B. Burgette 4.00
7. H. Henry-NW 7.2	

FG percentage	3-pt percentage
1. C. Abercrombie-PSU 59.2	1. D. Harris-SBU 48.1
2. V. Ateba-MSSU 57.4	2. A. Melle-WU 47.1
3. M. Rogers-SBU 56.3	3. C. Tegemeier-ESU 46.1
4. H. Hunter-NW 52.5	4. A. Peterson-NW 45.0



NORTHWEST GUARD MIKE LARSEN DRIVES to the hoop against Missouri Southern last Saturday. Northwest concludes the season Saturday against Fort Hays State.

WOMEN'S STATISTICS

Northwest	Opponent
75.2	Points/game 71.4
40.6	Field goal pct. 44.0
38.1	Rebounds/game 38.7
15.9	Assists/game 16.0
30.2	Three point pct. 34.4
15.3	Turnovers/game 20.4
10.8	Steals/game 7.8
71.5	Free throw pct. 74.2
3.0	Blocks/game 2.9

CONFERENCE LEADERS

Scoring per game	Steals per game
1. G. Mueller-TSU 21.9	1. C. Woods-MWSU 2.62
2. M. Stueve-ESU 21.6	2. K. Fleming-UCM 2.46
3. E. Souza-SBU 19.0	3. E. Souza-SBU 2.32
8. M. Schumacher-NW15.9	5. L. Williams-NW 2.20
20. K. Nelson-NW 11.1	9. K. Nelson-NW 1.92

Rebounds per game	Assists per game
1. J. Jones-UCM 10.5	1. E. Souza-SBU 4.84
2. G. Mueller-TSU 9.6	2. C. Woods-SBU 4.46
3. M. Stueve-ESU 8.4	3. M. Mason-TSU 3.96
6. M. Schumacher-NW 7.3	7. A. Miller-NW 3.56

FG percentage	3-pt percentage
1. M. Schumacher-NW 58.3	1. M. Stueve-ESU .480
2. G. Mueller-TSU .558	2. A. Leiker-ESU .467
3. T. Pierce-MSSU .502	3. C. Boston-ESU .432
	8. K. Nelson-NW .369

Check NWmissourianews.com for basketball notebooks.

SPOOFHOUNDS

MHS BOYS' BASKETBALL

Senior starters emerge in late-season district title push

By Christopher Woodland
Missourian Reporter

For five Maryville senior basketball players, the difference between winning and losing is a matter of pride.

Behind those seniors, the Spoofhound boys' basketball team rolled into districts, winning 10 of its last 13 games.

The lineup consists of Klay Talmadge, Andy Walter, John Seipel, Aaron Dueker and Ryan Sudhoff. Talmadge, Seipel, Dueker and Sudhoff have been playing together since fourth grade while Walter joined later.

Times haven't always been as good as their recent run though. They suffered through an 8-17 campaign as juniors.

This group worked all summer, competing in various camps to improve their record. When the first 10 games resulted in a 3-7 record for the 'Hounds this season, it looked like this year would turn out just as grim. They couldn't handle the thought of enduring another losing season.

"We were all sick of losing," Walter said. "Especially the close games."

At a point in the season when they could have tossed in the towel and given up on a disappointing year, they decided they would not end their careers that way. Fueled by determination and pride, they pulled together and mounted an impressive

run to end the regular season.

"Everyone basically just decided we wanted to win," Talmadge said.

The late-season surge got the 'Hounds to 13-10. They finished second in the MEC at 5-2 and earned a fourth seed in the district tournament.

If they keep winning, they will accomplish something together that none of them have ever done before — win a district title.

"That would be awesome," Dueker said. "None of us have won a district championship in anything."

Dueker and Walter have played big roles in the team's recent success. Walter went over 1,000 career points recently, taking 1,044 into the district tournament. Coach Mike Kuwitzky routinely calls on Dueker to hit key free throws. Kuwitzky chose Dueker to go to the line all three times when Cameron was called for technical fouls in last week's game. Dueker made five of the six free throws.

The seniors' play also determined the 'Hounds' thrilling win against Plattsburg County on Jan. 29. After trailing much of the game, Sudhoff sank two free throws with less

than 10 seconds in the game to tie and force overtime. Walter hit a three early in overtime to put Maryville ahead in the game, and Dueker finished them off by converting a 3-point play with 10 seconds remaining to give the 'Hounds a 54-51 victory.

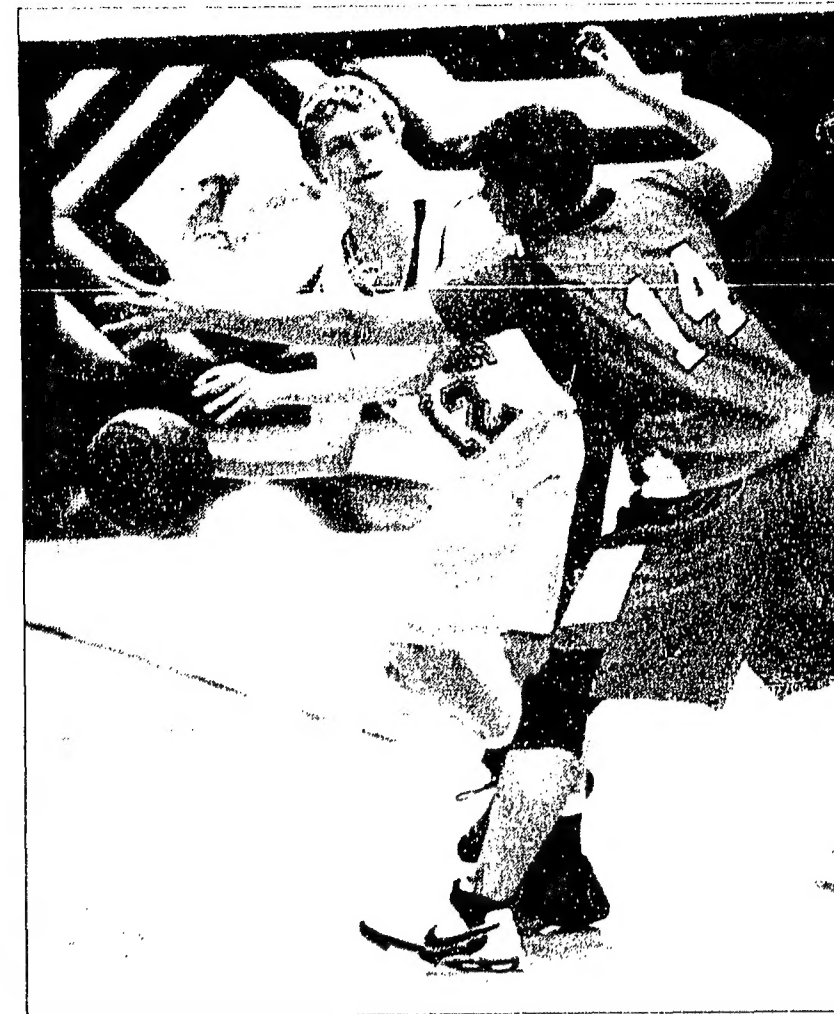
After basketball season, Talmadge, Seipel, Dueker and Walter begin their final baseball seasons for the 'Hounds. Talmadge plays centerfield, Walter works between first and second base, with Dueker on the mound pitching to Seipel.

Talmadge and Sudhoff both plan to attend Northwest this fall, while Dueker intends to enroll at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Seipel will continue his athletic career when he moves to Kansas City this fall to play soccer for Rockhurst

University. Walter is the lone undecided.

"It's always been a dream to play at Northwest, but I would have to walk on," Walter said.

Regardless of where they go from here, they are likely to remember and cherish this last stretch of games before districts. "It's nice to have a good year," Walter said. "We've been working on it since sophomore year and it's nice to have a good season."



SENIOR KLAY TALMADGE avoids the outstretched arms of a Plattsburg defender. Talmadge registered four assists and just one turnover in the Spoofhounds' rout of Plattsburg, Tuesday night.

MHS BOYS' BASKETBALL

Paint play aids victory over Tigers

No. 1 seed LeBlond poses similar threat with stingy zone defense

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

The Maryville High School boys' basketball team kept their season going by cruising past Plattsburg 64-40.

Its reward? The Spoofhounds now face LeBlond, the district's No. 1 seed.

"They run a 1-3-1 (zone defense) too," Maryville coach Mike Kuwitzky said. "So, having the opportunity to work on it now, I think, will help us play them in the semis."

And against Plattsburg, the 1-3-1 zone wasn't a problem, in the first half, anyway. In the first half, the 'Hounds shot 64 percent as a team while scoring 35 points.

Many of the team's points came down low as Maryville scored 22 points in the paint for the entire game. Plattsburg managed four.

Down low dominance was apparent as the 'Hounds out-rebounded the Tigers 41-17. Heading into the fourth quarter, senior Ryan Sudhoff was tied with the entire Plattsburg team with nine rebounds.

"It's just kind of a mind-set really," Sudhoff said. "A lot of it's timing and looking for the ball and being ready to go up for it."

Sudhoff added six points, two assists and one block to his game-high nine rebounds. He was also able to stay out of foul trouble, a problem he's had this season.

The 'Hounds' offensive pro-



SENIOR ANDY WALTER cuts to keep up with a Plattsburg guard. Walter had a game-high 19 points, six coming from the free-throw line. The Spoofhounds were able to penetrate Plattsburg's 1-3-1 zone to the tune of 64 points.

duction slowed in the second half. To compensate, their defense held the Tigers to 14 points on 5-of-26 shooting.

Senior Andy Walter helped the 'Hounds pull away with 10 second-half points. He finished the game with 19 points and eight rebounds.

"We've had three days to practice against the 1-3-1, so, it worked out in our favor ...," Walter said. "We just knew where gaps were going to be, and we attacked those gaps."

As impressive as Walter was, many of his teammates contributed high scoring totals, too. Senior

Aaron Dueker and junior Seth Staashelm posted 18 and 14 points, respectively. Dueker also grabbed nine rebounds while Staashelm had seven.

Dueker, Staashelm and the rest of the 'Hounds face an opponent in LeBlond that they've already played twice this year.

In their last meeting, LeBlond bested the 'Hounds 43-35 in the Savannah Tournament.

"I think our players are ready to play them," Kuwitzky said. "They're good, and we know what to expect."

Maryville faces off with the Eagles at 6 p.m., tonight, in Cameron.

DISTRICTS: High-pressure defense forces untimely Trenton turnovers

Continued from B1

It was not the offense that stood out in the first half, as the 'Hound defense's stifling effort did not let the off-and-on shooting affect the game.

"I thought the defense was great tonight, even when we were just knocking the ball out of bounds," coach Grant Hageman said. "We were just frustrating them and kept them out of their rhythm."

Maryville's defense turned in one of the season's best efforts, forcing Trenton to shoot just 3-for-20 from the field in the first half.

Post player Megan Walker, who had 12 points, drew the assignment of shutting down the tallest and top-scoring Bulldog, Amy Gutshall. Walker, along with reserves Tracy Jensen (seven rebounds, two blocks) and Jordan Gadbais, held her to just one field goal in the first half.

Gutshall did score 10 points, but most of them came after the game was out of reach.

"They did a great job guarding the Gutshall girl inside," Hageman said. "She's a really good post player, but (Walker), Gadbais and Tracy, too, they all did a good job rebounding and they made it tough for them to score inside. That was a big factor tonight."

The defense had bailed out of the shooters to get their rhythm, as Kisker hit back-to-back 3s to

start the second quarter. The remainder of the game saw the defense continue to wreak havoc, forcing 16 steals, which led to 28 points off turnovers (12 in the third quarter). On the night, Trenton did not have a single point off a turnover.

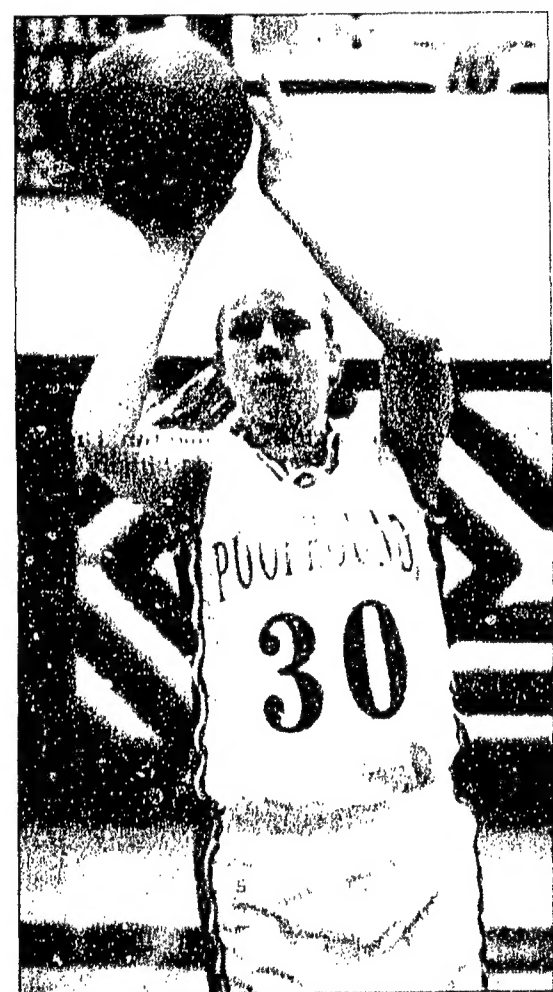
The 'Hounds' 16-0 run, which freshman Molly Stiens punctuated with seven straight points, in the fourth quarter forced a running clock and a 31-point win.

Maryville faced No. 3 Lawson in the district semifinals. Wednesday night (results not available at press time).

The 'Hounds have history with each opponent in the other semifinal, as No. 4 Brookfield gave them their final loss last season, while they split the season series with No. 1 LeBlond.

Hageman believes his team looks like it's ready to punctuate this turnaround season with a district title.

"I think the girls are starting to figure out that they can really



SOPHOMORE EMILY KISKER spots up for a first-half 3-pointer in Maryville's 58-27 defeat of Trenton in the first round of district play, Monday night.

do this year," he said. "It's a reality. It's a possibility if they just keep playing hard and playing together. We have come a long ways and that's a tribute to the girls."

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NWMSU, MHS Athletes of the Week

Kurtz

The sophomore catcher from St. Joseph, went 2-for-6 with two home runs and five RBIs in two games against Arkansas-Monticello.

O'Brien

The junior runner from Easton, Mo., set the school record in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 3:01.99 Friday at the Prairie Wolf Invitational.

Kisker

The sophomore guard led the Spoofhounds with 17 points (two 3-pointers) in Maryville's 58-27 district win, Monday night.

Walter

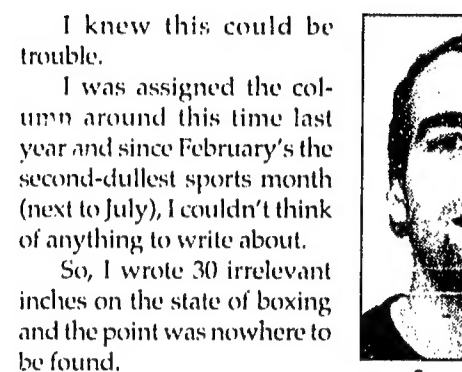
The senior guard scored a game-high 19 points in Maryville's 64-40 defeat of Plattsburg, in the district first round, Tuesday night.

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Boring month forces editor to embrace DVD player



Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

I knew this could be trouble. I was assigned the column around this time last year and since February's the second-dullest sports month (next to July), I couldn't think of anything to write about. So, I wrote 30 irrelevant inches on the state of boxing and the point was nowhere to be found. This year, I won't try and force something that isn't there, and I'll give my loyal readers (there has to be one) a column on something I care about: My Top 5 sports movies.

Keep in mind, I am not a conventional movie watcher, so some classics will be omitted because I simply don't enjoy them. But you will find some movies that weren't reviewed very well, because this list isn't about great, it's about originality.

5. Fever Pitch
No, this is not the Red Sox Drew Barrymore movie. How any sports fan or human can sit through that is beyond me.

For anyone who claims to be a sports fan or any woman who dates one, you have to watch this movie.

A British film that chronicles one fan's journey through 1989 Arsenal's season. Paul Ashworth, played by Colin Firth, is

absolutely obsessed, dwarfing any devotion I'd thought I had toward my team. Arsenal runs his life, as he refuses to plan a trip with his girlfriend because he doesn't know their schedule for the next season. This is the kind of man we should all aspire to be.

The unforgettable scene, which serves as an example of either why we watch sports or go too far with sports, comes when Arsenal loses in the last week of the season, and he goes off on his pregnant girlfriend who mocks his devotion.

4. Rocky IV

Words cannot describe how great this movie is. Yeah, no one agrees with me that this is the best of the "Rocky"s, but I'll argue it to the death.

After Apollo dies, Stallone goes into uber-training mode, which is the stereotyped cousin of any training movie you or I know. The man goes to Russia, does many exercises like running through waist-deep snow, climbs a mountain for fun and does it to amazing '80s training-montage music.

On top of all this, he ends the Cold War with one simple sentence to the Soviet crowd: "If I can change, and you can change...everybody can change!" Once the translator finishes his phrase for him,

the entire crowd loses it. Then they decided to make two more completely unnecessary "Rocky"s, tainting the legacy of an unforgettable film.

3. The Best of Times
If you've seen this movie, you and I can hang out anytime, because absolutely no one knows about it. Robin Williams and Kurt Russell re-unite their peaks here.

We catch up with Jack Dundee (Williams) 13 years after his final high school football game where he is the town loser because he dropped the pass that would've beaten their rival town in his senior year of high school.

Russell plays the star quarterback, now a mechanic, who Williams cons into convincing the town council to ask to replay the Taft-Bakersfield 1972 game (because this stuff apparently goes on all the time). After much convincing, this gets done. Both Williams and Russell's wives split on them after this genius idea goes into motion.

The final game is the most unrealistic thing ever, but this movie ranks this high for an amazing premise.

2. Field of Dreams
Movies just don't get classier than this. You all know about this one, so there's no need to give background. Costner, James Earl Jones and Ray Liotta (who does not play the token "tough guy" for the only time in his life) give outstanding performances. The movie speaks to all people

who once believed they could do something great.

I'm pretty sure the original George Bush's fate was sealed when he announced he didn't "get" "Field of Dreams." This country could not re-elect a man who didn't like this movie and that's how he lost the '92 election. The guy-cry nater goes off the charts at the end when Ray and his father, the underlying dream of this movie, get to play catch as the credits roll. In fact, I'm getting misty just thinking about this.

1. Major League
No surprise here. I've thought this for more than 10 years and never wavered: You cannot make a sports movie better. The genre went downhill from here. Yeah, the movie makes it seem like Cleveland wins 32 in a row after losing 60 in a row and the baseball scenes are equally unrealistic, but no one cares about that.

Wesley Snipes, who completely ruined his career by not embracing his Willie Mays Hayes persona, and Charlie Sheen are never better, and the side characters and script are top-notch. People who say "Anchorman" or "Superbad" have so many classic lines should really see this again, because nearly every line is perfect, and they actually make sense. I can't really utter any of them here, but watch the unedited version (not the TBS thing), and you'll get a glimpse of how great cinema can be.

POWER RANKINGS

MIAA Men

- Team**
1. Southwest Baptist Clinched outright MIAA championship. Not unbeatable.
 2. Northwest Can go into conference tournament with a lot of momentum
 3. Central Missouri Back to pre-MIAA form. Sleeper in conference tournament
 4. Fort Hays State Hottest team in the MIAA right now
 5. Washburn Hitting slide at the wrong time
 6. Missouri Southern Probably one-and-done in the conference tournament
 7. Emporia State Had a lot of potential but a big disappointment
 8. Pittsburg State Hasn't been a good year for Western basketball
 9. Missouri Western Will be watching the conference tournament from home
 10. Truman State

MIAA Women

- Team**
1. Washburn Not the most athletic team, but they get the job done
 2. Emporia State Best team I've seen this year, but inconsistency could doom them
 3. Southwest Baptist Jose Souza will make this team a tough exit come tourney time
 4. Northwest Bad nonconference record hurts regional tournament chances
 5. Missouri Southern Has a lot of athleticism, but doesn't have a deep bench
 6. Central Missouri Were extremely hot for a while, but have cooled as of late
 7. Truman State Injuries have made this a difficult year
 8. Missouri Western Down year for the Griffins, but should make the tournament
 9. Fort Hays State MIAA tournament berth will come down to final game against 'Cats
 10. Pittsburg State Haven't been able to do much against MIAA competition.

SPORTS STAFF PICKS

* We at the Northwest Missourian do not acknowledge the NBA as an actual sports organization. Therefore, no NBA picks.

Scott's Picks
Prediction Record (12-8)
NCAA Lock
Davidson at Georgia Southern — Davidson Triple D's Davidson squad is still undefeated, and it isn't stopping any time soon.

NCAA Lock
LaSalle at Rhode Island — Rhode Island I watched Rhode Island play the other day, and they looked good. This is a can't miss.

NCAA Upset Alert
UCLA at Arizona — Arizona I'm riding the Wildcats all the way to another upset. It worked out last week, just don't let me down now.

NCAA Upset Alert
Notre Dame at Depaul — Depaul This pick is based solely on the fact that Notre Dame isn't at home. Depaul's due for a big win here.

Brett's Picks
Prediction Record (10-10)
NCAA Lock
Washington State at Stanford — Stanford Stanford is 10-1 at home, and will finish off its three-game home stand with a win.

NCAA Lock
Michigan State at Wisconsin — Wisconsin The Spartans do not play well on the road, and it will show against this top defensive unit.

NCAA Upset Alert
Kansas State at Kansas — K-State K-State is inching itself closer to the NIT, but they outmatch KU in size and rebounding.

NCAA Upset Alert
Saint Mary's at Gonzaga — St. Mary's The last game went to overtime, so this one should be a high-scoring affair. If only Adam Morrison could be at the game to inspire his team.

Sam's Picks
Prediction Record (10-10)
NCAA Lock
Wagner at Quinnipiac — Wagner I've supported them through their darkest hours and they've lost. Now, NEC league, Wagner will beat them and send DeMarino Anderson into yet another spiral.

NCAA Lock
San Diego State at Colorado State — SDSU No chance Colorado State, no chance in hell.

NCAA Upset Alert
Pittsburgh at Syracuse — "Cuse Marquette doesn't know when to pick my boys, but I sure do.

NCAA Upset Alert
Georgetown at Marquette — Marquette The D.C. boys will have their work cut out for them in this one, traveling to ranked Marquette on ESPN, Saturday night.

Marc's Picks
Prediction Record (13-7)
NCAA Lock
Vanderbilt at Arkansas — Vandy I feel like picking road teams this week. Scott's living in lower dens and having a feeling picking the opposite of what he thinks is best.

NCAA Lock
Texas A&M at Oklahoma — Oklahoma The Sooners have an outstanding RPI, so Scott tells me.

NCAA Upset Alert
Georgia at LSU — LSU LSU is the worst team in the SEC. Georgia's the second worst. Originally, I chose the Indiana — Michigan St. game, but Scott squashed that because he needs to catch up.

NCAA Upset Alert
Clemson at Maryland — Maryland The color orange makes me violently ill.

WHAT TO WATCH?

Scott's TV Picks

Friday
■ LAI Dodgers vs. Atlanta Braves, 11 a.m. ESPN — Thank God we can finally stop hearing about Roger Clemens and start watching baseball. Nothing beats this competition.

Days rating (2 of 5)

Saturday

■ Iowa State at Colorado, 4 p.m. ESPN Classic — This is the second time the Clones have been on ESPN Classic.

Days rating (4 of 5)

Sunday

■ Dumb and Dumber, 5 p.m. TBS — I watch a movie depicting real-life actions by Marc and Sam.

Days rating (3 of 5)

Marc's TV Picks

Friday
■ Real Sports, 6 p.m. HBO — To see deep, emotional sports stories, I'll turn to HBO.

Days rating (1 of 5)

Saturday

■ Wichita at Drake, 11 a.m. ESPN2 — The darlings of the MVC have to take on Wichita. I want to see some fundamentally sound basketball.

Days rating (5 of 5)

Sunday

■ Kentucky at Tennessee, 11 a.m. CBS — This seems like a role reversal. The Vols don't suck. Kentucky does.

Days rating (3 of 5)

Sam's TV Picks

Friday
■ Seinfeld, 4 p.m. TBS — "The Cigar Store Indian." Jerry spends the whole episode trying to avoid making offensive comments to an Native American woman, but screws up many times.

Days rating (3 of 5)

Saturday

■ Pittsburgh at Syracuse, 11 a.m. ESPN — You guys remember that time the "Cuse played the 11 a.m. slot? I sure do.

Days rating (4 of 5)

Sunday

■ Ace Ventura: Pet Detective 1 p.m. — Still high comedy.

Days rating (2 of 5)

Brett's TV Picks

Friday
■ State Farm College Basketball Slam Dunk and 3-Point Shooting Championships, ESPN2, 1:30 p.m. — Start your weekend early, and catch the best shooters and dunkers compete.

Days rating (2 of 5)

Saturday

■ Kansas State at Kansas, ESPN, 8 p.m. — K-State has slipped considerably. Kansas is already thinking about San Antonio, so this will probably not be as exciting a game as it was the first time around.

Days rating (3 of 5)

Sunday

■ Georgia at Tennessee, ESPN2, 6 p.m. — The Vols aren't playing UConn, but is still a decent women's basketball game.

Days rating (2 of 5)

AT YOUR LEISURE

TOP PICKS

Top 5 picks of the week

By Sydney Moore
Entertainment Reporter

■ Check out this U.K. crooner — "Hometown Glory," by Adele is the first single from her debut album, "19," which was released Jan. 28. Adele has a very unique and likeable sound that reminds me of Alicia Keys mixed with a little bit of Amy Winehouse. It's an unlikely pair, but I find it incredible. With her soothing voice and overall sound, Adele is sure to have just as much success on this side of the world as well.

■ Most recent MySpace favorite — Ryan Taylor Bliss, a 22-year-old from Raleigh, N.C., is my favorite MySpace discovery in a while. His site is full of mellow tracks that can easily put you in a good mood and offer a great acoustic guitar sound that could make any girl melt. It's true that if you put a guitar in any guy's hand and he can sing decently, any girl will fall in love with him — and Bliss is definitely that guy.

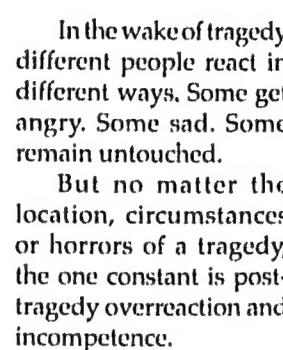
■ Times free single of the week — "Seven Days of Lonely" by I Nine. This poppy single is unfortunately the type that I hate to get stuck in my head. It's the same sound as most female-led pop bands, but I must admit that I still have a soft spot for them on certain days. It's a good song to listen to when you are feeling particularly down about boy problems, (what girl doesn't have those days?) or when you are just hanging out with the girls talking about those dreaded boy issues.

■ Stay in and watch this on Saturday night — "Good Luck Chuck." Personally, I think Dane Cook and Jessica Alba would make an adorable couple. In "Good Luck Chuck," Cook plays a womanizer that seems to have the ability to make every woman fall in love — with someone other than him. While attending a wedding for an ex-girlfriend, he meets penguin-obsessed Alba, who seems to have terrible luck with everything she touches. The two experience the typical ups and downs of a relationship and in the end, realize what they each need to do to change their love life luck for good.

■ After checking out "American Idol" this week — download your favorite performances on iTunes. Each contestant's performance from this week will be available to purchase for only 99 cents. For those obsessed with a certain contestant, the 90-second song is definitely worth the money. Also, don't forget to check out the "American Idol" blog at nwmissourianews.com to recap each night's performances.

STROLLER

Your Man hates overreactions



The Stroller

In the wake of tragedy different people react in different ways. Some get angry. Some sad. Some remain untouched.

But no matter the location, circumstances or horrors of a tragedy, the one constant is post-tragedy overreaction and incompetence.

The latest comes in the form of a school shooting at the campus of Northern Illinois University. The death of six students was a tragedy, and that leaves people asking questions. Why did it happen? What went wrong? And finally, How do we prevent this?

Insert the crazy idea here. Many of the gun enthusiasts of this country have a brilliant plan to prevent school shootings... arm all students, allow anyone who wants to carry a gun on campus to carry one.

I can hear the thoughts of rational people right now. "How do you prevent shootings by giving everyone a gun? It seems

like college would turn into Beirut if everyone had a Glock."

And, I can see the thoughts of dumb, inadequate, habitually flaccid rednecks.

"If someone came into my school with a gun, I'd drive over the desk, do a tactical roll, knock two baby orphans out of the path of a bullet and shoot the guy right between the eyes."

Hey, Jimbo, no you wouldn't. You'd be crying in the corner in a puddle of your own urine.

Allowing students to carry guns on campus because of a school shooting is like blowing up your car because it needs an oil change. It's a gross over-reaction.

The more rational of the gun lunatics think that only teachers should be allowed to pack heat. That's great. Argue with a teacher, and there could be serious consequences.

My goal is not to offend gun enthusiasts. I actually enjoy shooting guns, but there's a line between practicing the right to shoot skeet and arming the Bearcat nation. It's not even a thin line. It's a line as wide as a city street.

So, if someone says to you that they would end school violence with a shotgun and a heroic nature, slap them in the face and ask them, "What if you miss you idiot?"

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

MOVIE REVIEW

Reporter wants to teleport away from "Jumper"

By Mary Elifitis
Missourian Reporter

Teleporting to any beautiful place on earth sounds like an amazing superhuman power.

David Rice, played by Hayden Christensen, has the ability to teleport virtually anywhere in the world in the new flick "Jumper."

The movie also stars Samuel L. Jackson as the villain and Rachel Bilson as Rice's love interest. Up and coming actor Jamie Bell plays Griffin, an experienced jumper. After living on the money he steals from banks and never facing consequences for eight years, Rice realizes he is not the only jumper. In fact, he is one in a line that goes back for centuries. He then discovers a secret society of paladins will do anything to eliminate jumpers.

For eight years, Roland (Jackson) has searched diligently for Rice without his knowledge. Rice soon finds out that Roland isn't just after him for a couple of bank robberies and that this is one problem he can't teleport out of. After running home to his childhood love, Millie (Bilson), Rice realizes things really are too good to be true. Everything

the reason paladins hate jumpers is not really flushed out. Obviously, Roland resents that he can't do anything they want, but I kept expecting an elaboration on why.

Another confusing aspect of the movie was the mysterious mechanical box paladins used to listen to jumpers and then somehow follow them through the jump sites. This little mysterious machine seems bogus.

I thought the love story angle might help the film (at least for the female viewers), but it was more unrealistic than the mysterious mechanical box. Rice offers to whisk Millie away to Rome, a place she has wanted to see since childhood. Romantic and cute, but awkward, considering Millie thought Rice drowned eight years before in an ice-skating accident. After paladins follow and attack Rice in Rome, Rice realizes things really are too good to be true. Everything

will work out in the end though, because cinematic love is the real deal.

Rice as a hero-figure is my biggest problem with this movie. He rescues his girlfriend from the paladins, which is sweet, but not all that heroic, considering Millie would not have been in the situation if not for Rice. At the beginning of the film, Rice is shown watching the news and sees people trapped in a flood. Even with his abilities, Rice never considered trying to help. Instead, Rice is a thief and he lives for himself with no consequences.

Bell deserves recognition for his outstanding performance as Griffin. Jackson, as always, took command of his role and delivered it well. Bilson slid gracefully into a naive character and a decent presentation of Millie. Casting a different actor as Rice could have improved the film, because Christensen really did not deliver a great performance as lead actor.

On top of a slightly unrealistic plot, "Jumper" ended too suddenly with too many questions unanswered. With several loopholes in the film, a sequel would provide a heroic, likable character in Rice and a plot that answers questions. 2 of 5 popcorns

Mary gives "Jumper" 2 out of 5 popcorns

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Dancing

Queens



SPENCER BROWN, KNOWN as "Daisy Bucket" performs the hit song "Rehab" by Grammy-winning artist Amy Winehouse.



BREWER (LEFT) AND Brown rehearse their duet choreography before the show begins.

By Lindsay Jacobs
University News Editor

Even though he's been performing for only three months, he's got the preparation down to a science.

An hour for makeup, 30 minutes to hide or enhance body parts, 20 minutes to get dressed and 15 minutes to put a wig on.

Skylar Hollenback, or "Misty Sky" as he is known on stage, was one of the performers in Friday night's Mardi Gras Drag Show, sponsored by Common Ground, an organization that promotes a healthy environment for Northwest gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Hollenback enjoys performing because he has an entertaining personality, he said.

The inspiration for Hollenback's performances comes from his boyfriend, Gabriel Baculi, also known as "Mulan," who got Hollenback involved in drag shows.

Learning to walk in high heels is the hardest part of dressing in drag, Hollenback said.

Doug Brewer, known as "Bernadette" and Spencer Brown, or "Daisy Bucket" (pronounced "bouquet") are best friends, and have been performing together for two years. Brown idolizes Bette Midler and Brewer adores Liza Minnelli.

For his first performance of the night, Brewer glided around the stage in lime-green capris, a black v-neck top and black high heels as he lip-synced a song to a cheering crowd.

Brewer performs a couple times a week at schools, bars and benefits. He has performed for the past four years.

Brown has been performing for two years. He was crowned this year's Miss Kansas City Gay Pride Queen.

He was the only performer to perform with his real voice besides his duet with Brewer, who sang live for the duet.

For Brown's first performance, he came out in a shiny blue dress covered with a red jacket. He sang the song "Crazy" by Gnarl Barkley, but inserted the word "daisy" for "crazy."

Brown performs a couple times a week, including having a show at a bar in Kansas City.

On Friday night, they performed a duet to "Sisters," by Rosemary and Betty Clooney.

Brewer and Brown get ready for performances together usually while watching TV shows such as "Golden Girls" and "Designing Women."

They suggest anyone interested in performing in a drag show should give it a try, although it is hard to make money off performances.

"People, when they go to bars, they don't want to tip their money to watching people perform, they want to buy their drinks," Brown said.

In order to mix things up a little, performers have a mix of drag they dress in. There are glamorous drag queens, comedy performers, "clown-looking" drag queens and an occasional group performance, Brown said.

Common Ground President Monique Garcia said the show went well because the performers were "absolutely great."

The organization raised \$120 for the One Campaign, which funds AIDS research.



GABRIEL BACULI, ALSO known as "Mulan," goes through pre-performance rituals by applying duct tape before donning a wig.



SPENCER BROWN, KNOWN as "Daisy Bucket" on stage (left) and Doug Brewer, known as "Bernadette," talk about their performance influences. Brown is inspired by Bette Midler and Brewer by Liza Minnelli. They performed in Friday night's drag show sponsored by Common Ground. The show carried a Mardi Gras theme.



SKYLAR HOLLENBACK, OR "Misty Sky," applies mascara before curtain call. He has been performing for three months.